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Caya G.F. Betico Croes 111 T. 588-9517 F. 5889518.

Serghio Jansen graduated from Berklee College of Music



Photo above depicts Serghio Jansen surrounded by family members; below, Serghio with the flag of Aruba in the Aganias Arena where the graduation took place. Recently, Serghio Jansen has graduated from the Berklee College of Music in Boston with a specialization in "music performance" and the jazz guitar. His principal guitar instructors are the renown guitarists David Gilmore and Tim Miller. Serghio has won an "Outstanding Musicianship Award" from Berklee with a partial scholarship to attend Berklee. (see story on page 8)



Aruba honors long time visitors at Renaissance Beach Suites



The Silversteins and Ziobro family with Marushka of ATA and Linda Garcia

Two families that have owned timeshares since the first groundbreaking of what opened as Harbortown but is now the Renaissance Suites, were honored by the Aruba Tourism Authority and the resort for their loyalty over the past 22 years.

The Silversteins from New Jersey, Lily and Bernard, and the Ziobro family of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania were named Ambassadors of Goodwill during an informal ceremony in the resort's lobby on Thursday morning, May 19.

Marushka of the ATA presented the framed certificates, while Linda Garcia, concierge at the resort, awarded them with champagne and gift certificates from Renaissance.

Mike and Elaine Ziobro had traveled to many Caribbean destinations before discovering Aruba in 1987, and have returned here every year since. Their son Jared was also included when his younger sister Leann was born, and they are all big fans of the island; the youngsters also earned their own status as Ambassadors of Goodwill, having over 20 consecutive years of vacationing



Leann, Elaine, Mike and Jared Ziobro of Pennsylvania

here since they were tiny.

"When I was a kid I loved Aruba for the beach and playing in the pool," commented Jared, "now I appreciate the excellent restaurants and diversity of fine food we enjoy while on vacation." Aruba is where both kids learned to swim; they feel they have literally "grown up" here. "I love the street fairs that are so often staged around the Renaissance Marketplace," pipes in his sister, "we never see anything quite like it at home."

"After having visited so many places prior to Aruba, we

could truly appreciate all it had to offer," claim the Ziobros. "We felt comfortable about bringing our kids here, we knew they would be safe, particularly drinking the water, which is the best in the world-you always have to be concerned when traveling, especially for the little ones."

"What can we say," says Mike, "we came to Aruba and it just "felt right," that is the best way to put it. After 22 years, it still does."

by Rosalie Klein

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

Strauss-Kahn granted bail under home detention

NEW YORK CITY (AFP) - Ex-IMF chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn was granted bail yesterday after being formally indicted on sexual assault charges, but was placed under home detention after posting \$1 million bail.

Judge Michael Obus agreed to release Strauss-Kahn from notorious Rikers Island jail after he also agreed to an insurance bond of \$5 million, to surrender all travel documents and to submit to guarded home detention.

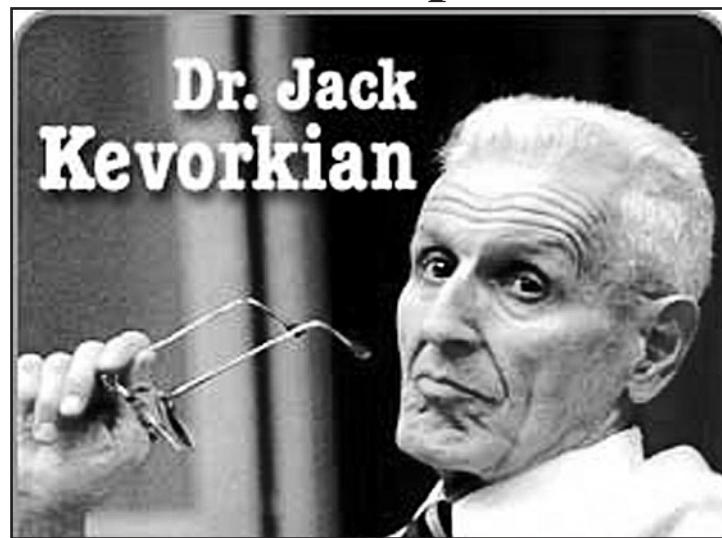
He was to be monitored in a Manhattan apartment 24 hours a day, seven days a week by video surveillance equipment and have at least one armed guard with him at all times, a New York court heard.

The hearing came just hours after Strauss-Kahn, 62, resigned from the IMF vowing to clear his name after being

charged in the alleged attack on a 32-year-old chambermaid in a luxury New York hotel suite on Saturday.

Obus yesterday set the arraignment of Dominique Strauss-Kahn for June 6, when the former IMF chief will formally enter a plea.

Assisted suicide advocate Kevorkian hospitalized



CHICAGO, Illinois (AFP) - Assisted-suicide advocate Jack Kevorkian, whose controversial tactics earned him the nickname Doctor Death, has been hospitalized with kidney problems and pneumonia, local media reported yesterday.

Kevorkian, who spent more than eight years in jail for the murder of a man whose videotaped assisted suicide was aired on national television, claims he actively helped 130 people to die.

Kevorkian, who turns 83 next week, was rushed to William Beaumont Hospital in suburban Detroit, Michigan on Wednesday night after feeling weak, his attorney told the Detroit News.

While Kevorkian is not in "grave danger," his health is not good, Mayer Morganroth said. The retired physician was hospitalized a few weeks ago

LAS VEGAS, Nevada (AFP) - Shoe bombs remain a threat for US aviation, said Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, who said passengers will have to continue to remove their shoes at airport screenings.

Napolitano drew applause at a conference of travel and tourism industry leaders with her remarks that the department has been looking for a technological solution to the shoe problem.

"We're not there yet, so wear slip-ons," she said.

The shoe requirement is probably the most hated of a raft of security measures imposed on air travelers after the September 11, 2001 attacks.

Industry leaders have complained about a one-size-fits-all approach to aviation security that they say has discouraged travel and is costing billions of dollars in revenue.

Napolitano said officials are not yet able to ease up on those stringent measures.

"It's a technological problem," said Napolitano.

"Why? Because we know from a risk-based standard that our adversaries have tried before and are always attempting to see what they can get onto a plane that would constitute enough explosive material to blow a plane up," she said.

"That threat has not disappeared, and if anything even the public revelations out of the material seized out of this compound where (terror mastermind Osama) bin Laden was confirmed that aviation remains a target."

Napolitano said that nearly 10 years after September 11, the US government was pursuing strategies to take some



Shoe bomber Richard Reid of the hassle out of air travel, where possible.

She said nearly a million people have now enrolled in "Global Entry," a so-called "trusted traveler" program that allows pre-vetted passengers to clear customs more quickly. The administration's goal is to double that number.

Other changes have been to introduce express lanes for passengers with connecting flights.

She said 80 percent of travelers at the top 22 international airports in the United States now clear customs in less than 30 minutes.

"We are moving away from one-size-fits-all," Napolitano said.

"But it's a more difficult problem than you might imagine. It has to be done the right way, recognizing that it only takes one plane going down" to have a major economic impact, she said.

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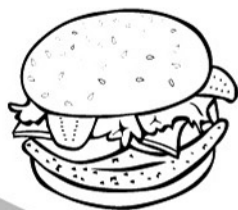
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Looking for Aruba's Most Outstanding Fisherman

ORANJESTAD -- Just short of one month, Centro di Pesca Hadicurari, LVV, and Aruba will be celebrating Fishermen's Day! In the light of this, they are making a call to everyone to begin preparing for this grand celebration.

Every year on June 29th, which is Saint Peter's day, fishermen around the Caribbean give tribute to what they consider to be the patron saint of fishermen. Here in Aruba, Centro di Pesca Hadicurari, in keeping with the tradition celebrates this day with a tremendous fishing competition together with family and friends at the center.

Fishermen, together with the Center and the Department of Agriculture, Lifestock and Fisheries (LVV of Santa Rosa) have begun their preparations for the event. They are also calling on all other fishing centers and social organizations to likewise prepare and participate in this great day for our fishermen.

This year the general public and especially our fishermen are invited to nominate the most outstanding fisherman.

The organizing committee is accepting nominations from the public so they can begin selecting the 3 most outstanding fishermen for 2011. As in the past, there will be one outstanding fishermen's prize reserved to stimulate the roll of women in the business of fishing. Two outstanding fishermen will be selected based on



his fishing career, achievements and general contribution to fishing in Aruba.

Everyone is invited to fill out the nomination form which can be obtained on the second floor at the club house of the Center, or by email at: hadicurari.pesca@gmail.com or via the Face Book page of Hadicurari Centro Pesca (facebook.com/hadicurari) where you can download the form digitally.

To nominate a fisherman, send the following information:

1. describe basic information about the fisherman, who he is, place and date of birth, address, his fishing history and any anecdotes, his knowledge of fishing. Photos are more than welcome, newspaper clippings of other documentaries of his achievements.

2. provide name and telephone of a contact person

A recording (film and audio) will be made of the elected fishermen for documentation and later distribution and a special recognition ceremony will be held.

The last day to submit your nomination is June 1st, 2011. So, don't hesitate to nominate the fisherman you consider to be worthy of such a recognition.

On Sunday, June 26th, Fisherman's Day, Centro Hadicurari in Noord will be full of activities. In addition to the fishing tournament with its many prizes, there will be the festival of local foods, activities for children, fishing tournament on the pier, and a host of other activities. You can be certain that the typical fishing ambience will delight everyone present.

Fisherman's Day was born to showcase the important job of fishing, what fishing means to the overall nutrition of people and to highlight the challenges that fishermen face in their job. We use the day to celebrate the fishing profession.

Fishing is an integral part of Aruban culture. Hence, we want to show special appreciation to our fishermen, and to stimulate the tradition of fishing in our young people.

Students receive info on Care Allowance at Aruba House

ORANJESTAD -- Last Saturday, May 14th, Aruban students in Holland were in attendance at the Aruba House along with their mentors for an informative afternoon regarding medical insurance, or as it is called in Holland the "Zorgtoeslag" (Care Allowance).

This meeting was planned in connection with the concerns that were raised with respect to the control and other issues of this program and of its transference to other insurers.

Desiree Croes, director of Aruba House in the Netherlands, who organized the meeting, provided explicit information and explanations regarding the matter of the Care Allowance, which of late is constantly in the news. Through the use of PowerPoint, very clear and effective information was presented to all present. Students were able to voice questions and interact with each other on the topic. They expressed satisfaction for the attention they received from Aruba House and commented that they would welcome more of this kind of interaction. The Director assured the students that it is her intention to, indeed, plan more of this type of encounters with our Aruban students studying in Holland.

Croes emphasized that Aruba House is of the opinion that, at least for now, Aruban students who are not employed in Holland and who are under 30 years of age, do not need the Care Allowance. They should not apply for this. This is to avoid receiving a tax collection. Because the tax office will assume they received funds they were not entitled to which they will require them to pay back at once. In Leeuwarden a student won a court case on this issue last May 2010, whereas for an identical case in Rotterdam another student recently lost his case in court. In that case the judge declared that the student did not have any right to the Care Allowance. A copy of both verdicts can be obtained at the Department of Education via the Aruba House.

In the meantime, the matter concerning the CVZ of our students is being resolved. All students are going to receive their new ID passes.

Aruba House is continuing its efforts to compile as much information as possible and is intent on holding conversations and deliberations with all relevant instances in the Netherlands so as to have the most complete package of information to submit to the Minister of Education of Aruba.

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Anne Frank Memorial to grace Wilhelmina Park



RESPETA BIDA...semper corda members

Members of the Fundacion RESPETA BIDA...semper corda, which means "RESPECT LIFE...always remember," in Papiamentu, revealed the location in Wilhelmina Park in Oranjestad where a statue of Anne Frank will be placed on the anniversary of her birthday, June 12.

The brief life of Anne Frank, the German Jewish girl who died in Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp after spending years hiding in an Amsterdam attic, has im-

pacted generations though the posthumous publication of her touching diary in over 70 languages, now including Papiamentu, recounting the ordeal.

Anne Frank's statue in front of the house where her family and others existed for years in fear of being caught, attracts visitors in droves and stands as a symbol of racial and religious intolerance.

In December of 2008, a bronze statue of Anne Frank by artist Joep Coppens,

which was donated by the Dutch government to Costa Rica, was unveiled on the new pedestrian Bulevar Unión Europea in San Jose on the 60th anniversary of the International Day of Human Rights.

Aruba's Prime Minister Mike Eman was so touched by this memorial he approached members of the Jewish community in Aruba regarding such a statue having an honored place on the island. This resulted in the founding of Fundacion Respeta Bida in December of last year.

The foundation's main goals are to safeguard the rights of every member of society in Aruba, promote tolerance, solidarity, freedom and equality, specifically against practices of racism, anti-Semitism and xenophobia, which can undermine such a small island community.



Anne Frank

The first Board of Directors of the foundation are Diana Pieters-Gonzalez (President), Jose Fernandes Perna (Vice President), Martha Lichtenstein-Goldenberg (Secretary), Frank Williams (Second Secretary), and Shereen de Cuba (Treasurer). Aruba's First Lady, Doina Eman, is a "protector" of the foundation.

On Thursday morning the spot for the memorial was revealed and the community invited to join foundation volunteers for the official unveiling of the statue commissioned by Joep Coppens around sunset on Sunday June 12. The statue, which will be 1.24 meters tall, depicts Anne Frank with her hands bound, looking skyward. The pedestal in San Jose bears the phrase from her book "Mi sueño es la libertad" - "My dream is liberty."

by Rosalie Klein

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Minister Dr. Richard Visser regarding World Hypertension Day

Citizens must be more conscious of the effects of high blood pressure



ORANJESTAD-- Every year, May 17 is dedicated to World Hypertension Day (WHD). This is an initiative of the World Hypertension League (WHL), an affiliated section of the International Society of Hypertension (ISH).

The WHD was first inaugurated in May 2005 and has become an annual event ever since. The purpose of the WHD is to promote public awareness of hypertension and to encourage citizens of all countries to prevent and control this silent killer, a modern epidemic; 80% of deaths from natural causes is due to high blood pressure.

The theme for 2011 is Know Your Numbers and Target Your Blood Pressure.

"Essential high potential," is a type of hypertension which affects more than 90% of all hyperactive patients. There is no directly identified cause for this, but the factors - although it refers to our life style - include lack of exercise or physical activities, fat and excessive intake of salt, smoking, stress and potassium deficiency; all contributing factors and principal causes to this chronic illness. Also of note: arterial hypertension affects more than 85% of people with a Body Mass Index (BMI) of 25 or greater.

As mention before, high intake of salt, alcohol and deficiency of Vitamin D increase the risk for the development of hypertension. As our age increase so does the risk for hy-



pertension. If a family member(s) suffers with hypertension, you can inherit the illness. Hyperactivity in your sympathetic nervous system also plays a role regarding the development of high blood pressure. Last but not least, insulin resistance - a component of the metabolic system, can contribute to high blood pressure.

Taking all of these factors into account, prevention is the most advisable practice. It includes a well-balanced diet, maintenance of proper weight and exercising or other physical activity daily for 1 hour. The idea is to instill awareness in our lifestyle so as to reduce cardiovascular deaths.

World Hypertension day was also commemorated on Aruba; a team comprised of Health Department personnel checked members of Parliament and the Council of Ministers for high blood pressure. This was done in order to boost attention to problem, an issue which should concern all the community.

Breakfast

7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

<p>EGG DISHES</p> <p>*2 eggs sunny side up with ham & cheese</p> <p>*Scrambled with ham, cheese, onions, green pepper, tomato, mushroom</p> <p>*Plain omelettes with ham, cheese, onion, green pepper, tomato, mushroom</p> <p>All egg dishes are served with a choice of : white or whole wheat baguette or sliced toasted bread.</p> <p>*PASTECHEI HORNA</p> <p>*CRÊPES</p> <p>*SWEET CRÊPES</p> <p>*BAGEL with cream cheese, smoked salmon, boiled egg</p>	<p>LOCAL BREAKFAST</p> <p>*Pan grandi (di rama) or baguette</p> <p>*KERRIE-KERRIE (FISH)</p> <p>*CONCH</p> <p>*FISH EGG</p> <p>*SHRIMPS</p> <p>*FISH FILLET</p> <p>*FISH CAKE</p> <p>*CHICKEN SOUP</p> <p>*FRUIT SALAD & YOGHURT</p> <p>*HOT BEVERAGES</p> <p>*COLD BEVERAGES</p>
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Countdown to Destination Innovation



Ross Brezover, Laureen Dix, Azriah Palm and Mark Benson Denz

Organizers of the exposition coming to the Renaissance Convention Center the last weekend of May, "Destination and Innovation" announced that all is ready to provide an entertaining and enlightening vision of the future and ideas to make it happen, for all visitors over Friday and Saturday, May 27 and 28.

Laureen Dix of the Aruba Chamber of Commerce, (KvK) urged the public to attend this educational show which will feature nearly 30 booths from local and international companies, continuing lectures and presentations throughout the two days of the show, and an innovation competition by students of the EPI Technology School.

Azriah Palm of EPI reported the projects will provide excellent information on renewable energy sources while showcasing the ingenuity of Aruba's future technology leaders.

Mark Benson-Denz of popular local news website 24ora.com, confirmed their sponsorship of the event and streaming live coverage on their website. Ross Brezover of Aruba Social Media announced their company will be handling Twitter and Facebook posts, and suggested visiting the KvK pages on either social network and register with the "like" button, to receive updates and information.

"There is an important difference between invention and innovation," claims the KvK; invention is coming up with a new idea, innovation is the commercial application and successful exploitation of an idea. This means introducing something new into your business, whether a single major breakthrough — e.g. a totally new product or service or a se-

ries of small, incremental changes; whatever form it takes, innovation is a creative process. The upcoming exposition will provide an abundance of inspiration along with the opportunity to network with local and international concerns. Small entrepreneurs to major corporations and the public will benefit from Destination Innovation.

Tickets are on sale at the KvK offices on the western outskirts of Oranjestad and at the door. They cost 5 Aruban florins for adults and 2.50 for children and students. Hours are Friday: 2:00 to 6:00 PM and on Saturday, 10:00 AM until 6:00 PM.

by Rosalie Klein

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Destruction of Nature...why?

ORANJESTAD -- During the late afternoon of Thursday 12th of May a massive destruction of nature took place here on Aruba. Two full grown Watapana trees were brutally rooted up. These two trees were standing disgracefully along the road side in Piedra Plat not far from the SKA area.

The Department of Public Works has submitted a formal complaint to the police. Apparently, they have information as to who were the culprits of this horrendous act of destruction. They used a bobcat to accomplish this debauchery to our nature.

Earlier in the week the Public Works Department (DOW) were doing maintenance on the dirt road at Piedra Plat. DOW dug into the road a bit in order to apply a layer of material that remains after asphalt has cooled off. During their work they encountered two Watapana trees alongside the road. They did everything possible to work around these trees so

as not to damage them in any way.

It remains incomprehensible to DOW why these trees had to be removed. It appears that the bandits felt that the trees were in the way and so they took it upon themselves to root them up brutally.

It is no secret that the chance for successfully replanting trees that were rooted up is very slim. However, DOW attempted to try and save at least one of them, the one that appeared most intact with the least amount of damage to its roots. They felt they could replant it at another location. Their experience tells them that if they could protect the crown root and put the tree back into the earth and lavish it with water, it may survive.

Hence, on Friday, the DOW workers covered the roots of the tree with earth and doused it with much water so that on Monday morning they could return and continue with planting the tree elsewhere.

However, much to the surprise of everyone, on Monday morning when they returned to the site, lo and behold, both trees were gone! Apparently, the bandits were not pleased with the idea that they were attempting to save one of the trees.

DOW has high hopes that the detectives will be able to lay hands on the culprits of this needless act of destruction.

It is true that many in our community blame the DOW themselves for eliminating many of our trees unnecessarily. DOW, on the other hand explained that they are responsible for our roads. When it becomes necessary to construct a new road it is imperative that they clear the area and in that process they have no choice but to remove any trees in the path. They assert, however, that they constantly make

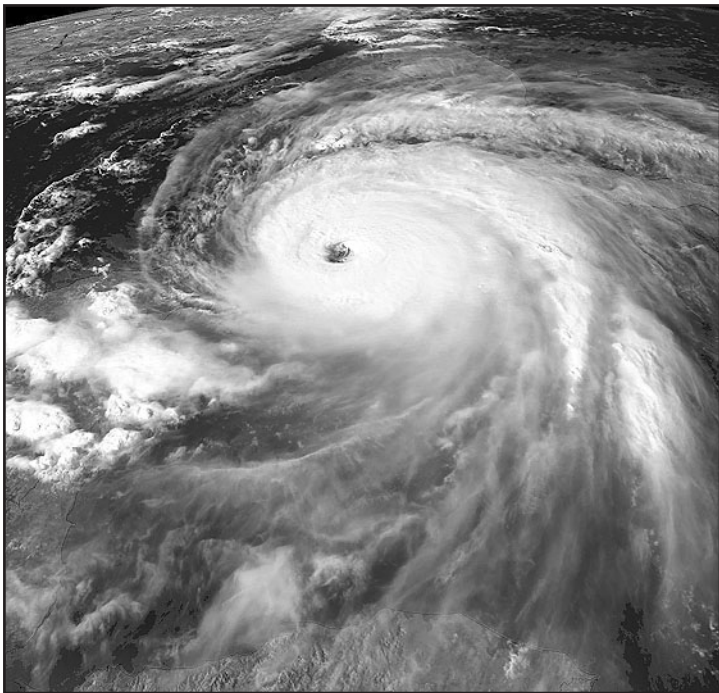


every effort possible to save trees from being cut down or rooted up as far as this is possible.

DOW finds it important to bring this matter to the attention of everyone. Together we as citizens of Aruba can make a difference in protecting our valuable nature. We must be the watch dogs for those who have no regard for our trees, the social control will help prevent acts as the one described here in Piedra Plat. We must always report this type of brutality to the authorities.

Sci-Tech

Ten Atlantic hurricanes predicted for this season



MIAMI (AFP) – The Atlantic will experience a rougher than normal hurricane season this year with up to 10 hurricanes, the US weather service forecast Thursday.

"The United States was fortunate last year. Winds steered most of the season's tropical storms and all hurricanes away from our coast-

lines," said Jane Lubchenco, who heads the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

"However we can't count on luck to get us through this season. We need to be prepared, especially with this above-normal outlook."

The weather service predicted that the Atlantic basin

will experience 12 to 18 named storms between June 1 and November 1.

Six to 10 of those storms could reach hurricane strength with sustained winds of more than 74 miles per hour (119 kilometers per hour).

Three to six of those storms could be major hurricanes with sustained winds of 111 miles per hour or higher (187 kilometers per hour).

The seasonal average is 11 named storms, six hurricanes and two major hurricanes.

Landfall is dictated by weather patterns at the time the storm approaches and hurricane impacts often reach far inland.

"The tornadoes that devastated the south and the large amount of flooding we've seen this spring should serve as a reminder that disasters can happen anytime and anywhere," said Craig Fugate, head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"Now is the time, if you haven't already, to get your plan together for what you and your family would do if disaster strikes."

PlayStation Network revival stumbles

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) – Sony's efforts to revive its PlayStation Network (PSN) have stumbled after the firm discovered a flaw hackers could exploit when it came to resetting passwords.

Sony temporarily disabled PSN and its Qriocity music streaming password reset pages to fix a vulnerability in a system that was just regaining its footing after a cyber attack that resulted in it being shut down for weeks.

"We temporarily took

down the PSN and Qriocity password reset page," Sony spokesman Patrick Seybold said in an update posted at the PlayStation blog.

"Contrary to some reports, there was no hack involved," he explained. "In the process of resetting of passwords there was a URL exploit that we have subsequently fixed."

Details of the exploit were not disclosed, but a door open had reportedly been left ajar for hackers to change a user's password if they knew the

email address and birth date associated with an account.

"Consumers who haven't reset their passwords for PSN are still encouraged to do so directly on their PS3," Seybold said. "Otherwise, they can continue to do so via the website as soon as we bring that site back up."

PSN connects PlayStation 3 (PS3) consoles to online games, films and more.

Sony on Sunday began a "phased restoration" of network services that came under hacker attacks in one of the biggest data breaches since the advent of the Internet.

Cyber thieves stole personal data that included names, passwords and addresses from more than 100 million accounts on PSN and Sony Online Entertainment services.

Sony has said it cannot rule out that millions of credit card numbers may have been compromised.

Sony shut down the PSN and Qriocity on April 20 after its data centre in San Diego was hacked -- but it did not reveal the breach until April 26.



File photo Chinese select latest pirated DVDs on sale at a subway in Beijing, 21 August 2007. The United States asked the World Trade Organization to mediate a copyright trade dispute with China, saying bilateral talks have failed to close loopholes that allow counterfeiters to flourish as Chinese-made counterfeit goods -- from software and DVDs to luxury leather goods and watches -- are widely available in the US market.

Breakfast 8:00 am – 11:00 am
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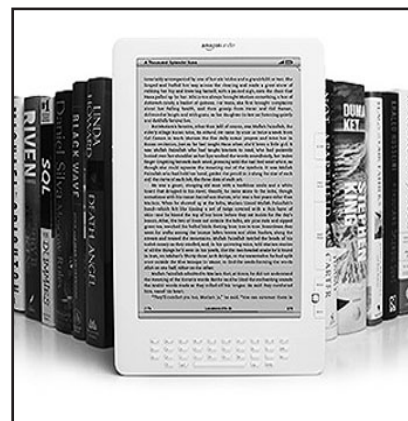
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Amazon selling more Kindle books than print books



WASHINGTON (AFP) – Online retail giant Amazon said Thursday that sales of digital books for the Kindle electronic reader have surpassed sales of print books.

"Customers are now choosing Kindle books more often than print books," Amazon founder and chief executive Jeff Bezos said in a statement.

"We had high hopes that this would happen eventually, but we never imagined it

would happen this quickly," Bezos said. "We've been selling print books for 15 years and Kindle books for less than four years."

The Seattle, Washington-based Amazon said that since April 1, it was selling 105 Kindle e-books for every 100 print books, hardcover and paperback combined.

The company said it had sold more than three times as many Kindle books so far in 2011 as it did during the same period last year.

Amazon began selling print books in July 1995 and introduced the Kindle in November 2007.

The US Kindle store offers more than 950,000 books including 109 of the 111 New York Times best sellers.

Amazon does not release sales figures for the Kindle e-reader.

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Health & Living

Yoga helps breast cancer patients: study



Yoga helps breast cancer patients

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Breast cancer patients who practice yoga experience lower stress and improved quality of life compared to counterparts who do stretching exercises, a US study indicated.

Researchers at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center studied 163 women with an average age of 52 who were undergoing radiation therapy for breast cancer, ranging from early onset to stage three.

The women were randomly assigned to one of three groups -- yoga, simple stretching and no instruction in either.

Those assigned to yoga or stretching practiced in one-hour sessions three times a week for the duration of the six-week radiation therapy.

At the end of their radiation treatment, they were asked to report on their own health and well-being at one, three and six months after treatment, and they also underwent tests to measure heart function and stress hormone levels.

Women in the yoga and stretching groups each reported less fatigue than the

non-exercise group.

But women who did yoga reported "greater benefits to physical functioning and general health... (and) were more likely to perceive positive life changes from their cancer experience than either other group."

The yoga group also saw

the "steepest decline in their cortisol across the day, indicating that yoga had the ability to regulate this stress hormone," the study said.

"This is particularly important because higher stress hormone levels throughout the day, known as a blunted circadian cortisol rhythm, have been linked to worse outcomes in breast cancer."

Lead author Lorenzo Cohen said yoga likely helped patients deal with the transition from cancer treatment back to regular life.

"Teaching patients a mind-body technique like yoga as a coping skill can make the transition less difficult."

A separate study released last month suggested that regular yoga practice by cardiac patients was able to cut irregular heartbeat episodes in half.



Geneva, Switzerland : Activist get out of a limousine disguised as an ambulance during a demonstration staged by Doctors of the World, an humanitarian aid and non-governmental organization (NGO), to protest against the high cost of healthcare, on the sideline of the World Health Organization (WHO) annual assembly, at the United Nations office in Geneva on May 19, 2011. Dozens of health ministers and more than 1,800 delegates representing the 193-member body, part of the United Nations, gathered at the WHO meeting that ends on May 24.

AFP/Photo

Global fund to fight diseases faces \$1bn gap



French First Lady Carla Bruni-Sarkozy attends a press conference in Paris in December 2008 in her role as ambassador to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS

PARIS, France (AFP) — The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria is facing a funding shortfall of more than a billion dollars, according to an annual report released Thursday.

The Fund will need at least 13 billion dollars for 2011-2013 to cover minimum estimated needs, but pledges from donor nations and private sources so far amount to only 11.7 billion dollars, it said.

Costs for detection and treatment of the three diseases could top 20 billion for the three-year period, Global Fund Executive Director Michel Kazatchkine warned at a press conference in Paris.

Without additional resources, the scale-up of new programmes will be "significantly slower" than in preceding years, he said.

"We need more if we are going to have a world in 2015 where nearly no one dies of malaria, no more children are born infected with HIV and at least 70 to 80 percent of patients who need treatment for AIDS get it," he said.

Universal coverage with insecticide-treated nets in Africa and the elimination of

mother-to-child HIV transmission will be more difficult to achieve, he added.

Donations to the Fund have been undercut by the continuing fallout from the worldwide economic crisis that started in 2008.

Revelations in December that tens of millions of dollars earmarked from programmes in African nations had gone missing have also prompted at least two donor countries, Germany and Sweden, to suspend contributions.

Created in 2002 with seed money from software mogul Bill Gates, the Fund is the single largest source of international health financing for all three diseases, which together claim more than four million lives each year.

In 2009, the Global Fund accounted for 20 percent of international public funding for HIV, 65 percent for TB and 65 percent for malaria.

Last year, it disbursed three billion dollars on these three diseases, the largest single-year payout in its decade-long history.

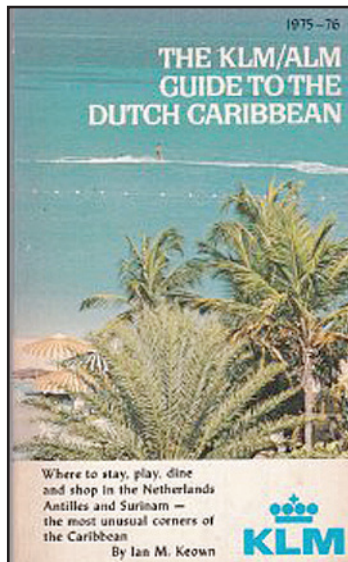


Combat Dengue

Keep around
your house
and yard clean

Back Then...

KLM, Royal Dutch Airlines, has been flying to Aruba since flying began in the early 20th century. In 1988 they issued a "Guide to the Dutch Caribbean" with the request: "Have a nice trip...and make lots of friends."



The first chapter was an introduction to the Dutch Caribbean in a delightful, almost irreverent style. "Back in the days of privateers and buccaneers, the Caribbean was like a rummage sale. Holland came out rummaging with one country and 6 islands; one of this, one of that, one here, one there, making up one of the most varied, cosmopolitan, surprising, fascinating agglomerations in the Caribbean. Note: Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, St. Maarten, Saba, St. Eustatius and Surinam."



Aruba beach seen from above

In one spin through the Dutch Caribbean you can visit

- the largest flamingo sanctuary in the Western Hemisphere
- an island that is 1/3 national park
- an island surrounded by unexplored coral reefs that rival the Great Barrier Reef
- the oldest synagogue in the western Hemisphere
- a tropical rain forest in the crater of a volcano where you can hunt for crabs by moonlight
- an island with 32 of the quietest beaches in the

Caribbean

- an island with no beach, but with one handmade road, 128 cars, a thousand inhabitants and seven churches



Flamingoes in Bonaire

- an island that helped win the American War of Independence
- prehistoric thousand-ton boulders that baffle geologists
- the largest all-wood cathedral in the world
- a church with a 200 year old altar

How did the Dutch come to be here

Back in the Golden Age of Holland, when Rembrandt was painting busts of Homer and Vermeer was immortalizing the Dutch home, the merchants of Holland were scanning the West Indies for new sources of revenue. In those days people didn't go the Caribbean looking for a quiet corner of a beach – they were after gold, silver, slaves, sugar and loot.

The Dutch, in the form of the Dutch West Indies Company, first arrived in the early 1600's, grabbed a few islands, and were kicked off of them

several times in the next 200 hundred years before finally up with a half dozen. The islands prospered and slumped and prospered again through a variety of industries and projects and, ultimately the business that interests you the most, vacations.

The Dutch passions for cleanliness, health and education have made the Antilles among the cleanest, healthiest and best educated islands in the Caribbean. (Their literacy rate in some cases is higher than the United States.)

Even in jungly Surinam, the common tropical diseases have been virtually eliminated.

In 1954 the Netherlands Antilles and Surinam became autonomous nations within the Kingdom of the Netherlands. This means, basically, that the farmer growing yams in Saba has the same rights at the diamond cutter in Amsterdam.

Your first sight of Aruba from the air is a long, curling, gleaming ribbon of sand. The sand is so white and the water so clear you almost wish you had a parachute so that you could jump in right then and there. Can it really be that beautiful when you get there? You bet.



The volcanic island of Saba

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Serghio Jansen graduated from Berklee College of Music

He has performed at the London Jazz festival and the Chiayi Music Festival in Taiwan



Serghio with Chucho Valdes, Oscar Stagnaro, Ivan Jansen after the concert dedicated to Chucho and Bebo Valdes

Serghio was considered a top guitarist at Berklee and as such was chosen as principal guitarist in different orchestras and bands. As part of the commencement ceremonies for his own graduation he formed part of the orchestra that interpreted music for the Grammy award winning Chucho Valdes and he accompanied Chucho with two themes. Serghio has formed part of the most important events in guitar at Berklee such as the Jazz Guitar night, the Rock Guitar Night and the Latin Celebration Week.

Serghio has performed with various Grammy Award winning artists such as Oscar Stagnaro (Bass), Alex Brown (piano), Mark Walker (drums), winner of Oscar Jorge Drexler, John Blackwell (drummer of Justin Timberlake) and many other musicians that form part of bands with renown musicians. He has also performed in concert with Edison Award pianist Randall Corsen, and with the "maestro" guitarist, Ivan Jansen, in various concerts.

He appears on CD's of Human Equivalent and is recording a CD with Joey Blake (vocalist for Bobby McFerrin).

With the Human Equivalent Band, Serghio has performed at the London Jazz Festival, and the Chiayi music festival in Taiwan.

He has also formed his own jazz, jazz-fusion, jazz-rock, jazz-latin bands with top students at Berklee and has presented at various festivals such as festivals in Venezuela and the Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival in Aruba. He has played with the majority of renown Aruban musicians such as Ivan Jansen, Reno Steba, Eddy Samson, Hildward Croes, and has performed at all major festivals in Aruba.

To promote the Aruban and Caribbean rhythms at Berklee, he gave a Clinic and brought his band of young Aruban musicians from Aruba to Boston to play the music with Aruban / Caribbean rhythms at the Clinic.

Serghio is the son of the well known maestro guitarist Ivan Jansen, also a Berklee graduate, and Myrna Jansen-Feliciano, and the brother of Michella and Ivana.

Serghio will also appear on Ivan Jansen's fifth CD that Ivan Jansen is producing with Grammy award winning musicians that will soon be released. Serghio has received private lessons in piano from his father since his sixth year and on the guitar since his 13th year.

Serghio has moved to New York to continue with his professional music career.

by Rosalie Klein



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AAA growth for 2011



Peter Steinmetz and Mario Bikker with AAA executive management

Aruba Airport Authority CEO Peter Steinmetz and Director of Airport Projects, Mario Bikker, welcomed media to the Reina Beatrix International

Aruba Airport Authority CEO Peter Steinmetz and Director of Airport Projects, Mario Bikker, welcomed media to the Reina Beatrix International Airport to deliver the 2010 operational statistics and their expectations of the profitability of the facility for the coming year.

Various prominent industry organizations (ICAO, IATA, UNWTO and ACI) expect global passenger traffic to continue to grow in 2011 at a rate between 4.0% and 5.2%. Obviously, there are significant differences between regional markets, but these are not specified.

AAA management concedes this outlook generally coincides with Aruba's traffic from North America and Latin America, in general. Europe is expected to grow at a slower pace as the Caribbean traffic depends largely on capacity offered by airlines. The Latin American traffic will most likely continue to be heavily influenced by government measures in Venezuela regarding currency restrictions, which impacts travel by residents; however, first quarter 2011 did show promising numbers from this market.

2010 figures demonstrate a stability of aircraft movements and seat capacity growth in

most market segments, with 0.2% growth compared to 2009 for a total of 38,404 additional passengers passing through the airport. North America actually had negative growth of .4%, as did Latin America of .3%, but increased traffic from the Netherlands Antilles of .6% and Europe of .1% balanced out for positive growth.

AAA focused on retaining existing air service and increasing services in other markets during 2010. Total outbound capacity to Aruba grew by 29% from 1,437,435 to 1,858,440 seats by the finish of the year. The Europe cruises category disappeared from the statistics as there were no cruise turnarounds in 2010.

"The world is moving again," commented Mr. Steinmetz when citing the 0.8% increase in passengers in 2010 over 2009. Even though the first quarter of 2010 showed an average decrease of 1.5% per month, April, September, October and December showed healthy increases compared to 2009. Total passenger traffic for 2010 was 3.1% higher than 2009 to end the year with 1,984,173 passenger movements. This set a new record for the Reina Beatrix International Airport. With cruise turnarounds excluded from the 2009 figures (as there were none in 2010), PFC growth amounts to 2.3%.

In the private charter flight sector, Fixed Base Operation for general aviation (operated by

affected private aircraft owners' traveling behavior.

When compiling their figures, AAA bases their calculations on PFC-paying passengers, which indicate that the USA accounted for 63% of total tourism visitors to Aruba, which is approximately equal to 2009. Latin America remains Aruba's second largest tourism market with 16%, of which Venezuela accounted for 58% in 2010.

Airport officials consider the statistics indicate "a cautious recovery from the downturn that set in 2008 with rising oil and fuel prices, followed by the subsequent banking and global economic recession." Aeronautical revenues increased by 1.2% which is just a

little more than the increase of 0.8% in passenger numbers. Total non-aeronautical revenue remained at the same level as 2009, but the operating costs (excluding changes in estimates) increased substantially, mostly due to increased electric and water rates, as well as professional and maintenance services required and additions to provisions for doubtful accounts. As a result, the net profit in 2010 was 16.8% down from 2009 but still ended with a satisfactory AWG 12.4 million, net profit.

For the 4th and 5th time in

in the category "The Americas" for Excellence in Airline Marketing during the annual World ROUTES conference in Vancouver, just behind 1st place Edmonton, but won the 1st place in the category Latin America & Caribbean during ROUTES Regional conference in Lima, Peru. Considering that AAA, a relatively small player among all American, Latin and Central American airports, managed to obtain such prizes is really quite remarkable, as prizes are awarded based on information received from the airlines who vote on the most

Key statistical figures 2010

ORANJESTAD - The Company's performance in 2010, compared to preceding years, can be summarized as follows:

	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
Operational indicators					
Total passengers (incl. transit/transfer)	1,984,173	1,923,623	1,973,561	1,837,413	1,638,126
PFC-eligible departing passengers	946,626	939,011	969,687	912,281	808,591
Movements commercial flights	29,466	28,198	28,035	27,040	24,748
Profit & loss account (in AWG '000)					
Operating revenue (continuing operations)	92,419	91,585	92,806	79,920	69,768
Aeronautical revenue	66,222	65,427	67,474	63,878	55,501
Total EBITDA	39,831	43,102	44,571	35,754	30,493
Total operating result	22,666	25,973	28,338	19,985	13,683
Total net result	12,425	14,936	17,047	11,001	8,393
Cash flow (in AWG '000)					
Cash flow from operating activities	30,299	40,454	38,690	29,626	23,490
Ratios					
Operating result as % of net turnover	24.5%	28.4%	30.5%	23.8%	19.6%
Return on net assets (RONA)	13.9%	15.7%	17.7%	12.0%	8.3%
Interest coverage ratio	4.13	4.97	6.08	3.98	2.37
Debt service coverage ratio	2.00	2.19	2.29	2.01	1.93
Solvency ratio	75.9%	72.0%	67.4%	61.9%	57.8%
Personnel					
Employees at year-end	173	180	182	189	190

Despite the effect of the economic crisis and currency restrictions for Venezuelan travel to Aruba the financial impact on the Company's operating revenue remained limited to relatively small. Cash flows and all ratios remain strong however, and the Company maintained its strong financial position.

5 years, AAA received appreciation from airline customers for its airline marketing efforts: for the 2nd consecutive year, AAA was highly commended. AAA was awarded runner-up status

outstanding airports in geographical categories, irrespective of size.

by Rosalie Klein



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ACROSS

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4. Comedian Hartman
8. Schedule abbr.
11. "___ Gang"
12. Give evidence
13. Spherical body
14. ___ Lanka
15. Rows
16. Solidify
17. Assemble
19. Blackboard
21. Feline

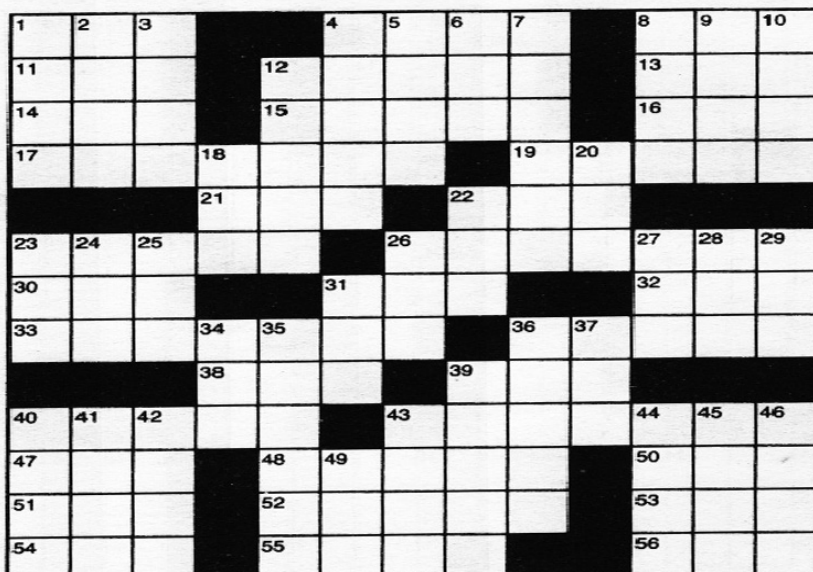
22. Canadian prov.
23. Vandyke
26. Capital of New Mexico (2 wds.)
30. Sandy's sound
31. Tachometer letters
32. Three (prefix)
33. Poisonous snake
36. Matt of "The Good Shepherd"
38. ___ education
39. Deity
40. "M*A*S*H" setting
43. Scooting downhill
47. Chimpanzee,

- e.g.
48. Reel
50. Fair mark
51. Beatty of "Superman"
52. Test type
53. Winged mammal
54. Bradley and Asner
55. Tumult
56. "___ Doubtfire"

DOWN

1. Anjou cousin
2. Coin of Italy
3. Happy face
4. Produce newspapers
5. Use a strop
6. Common contraction

7. Decrease
8. Caesar's attire
9. Author Harte
10. Fit
12. Entreat
18. DVD player's predecessor
20. Kindled
22. Cooking spray brand
23. Musical measure
24. Victorian ___
25. Fore and ___
26. Warmer weather time (abbr.)
27. 24-hour teller (abbr.)
28. To's partner
29. Munich "one"
31. Critic Reed
34. Half a fly
35. Renter
36. Lacy table decoration
37. Tack on
39. Be a poor winner
40. Carol of "Taxi"
41. Page for viewpoints (hyph.)
42. Scarlets and crimson
43. Just okay (hyph.)
44. Missile initials
45. Come close
46. Obtains
49. Greek letter



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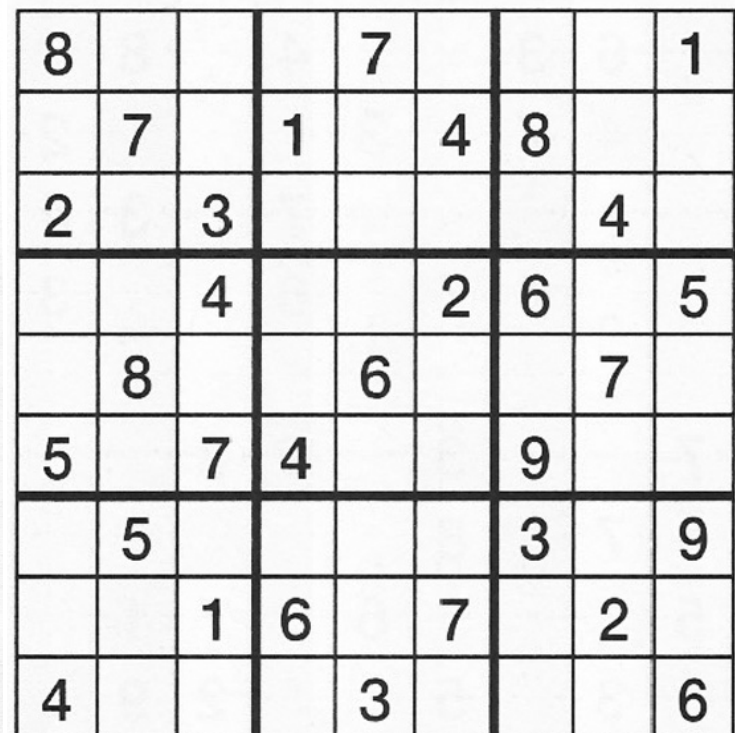
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

9	9	2	1	8	6	8	2	7
8	2	7	2	9	9	1	8	6
6	1	8	8	7	2	9	9	2
2	8	6	8	1	7	2	9	9
7	2	1	6	9	9	2	8	8
9	8	9	2	8	2	7	6	1
2	7	9	9	6	8	8	1	2
8	6	8	7	2	1	9	2	9
1	9	2	9	2	8	6	7	8

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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Finance

Oil prices fall on demand growth worries

NEW YORK, (AFP) - The oil market sank on Thursday after the International Energy Agency warned high prices could derail global economic growth and called for increased output to tackle the problem.

Oil prices also fell under pressure from a batch of disappointing economic data in the United States, the world's biggest oil-consuming nation, and news that Japan's economy plunged into recession in January-March.

New York's main contract, light sweet crude for June, dived \$1.66 to \$98.44. The contract expired at the close.

In London, Brent North Sea crude for delivery in July dropped 88 cents to settle at \$111.42 a barrel.

The benchmark New York futures contract pulled back

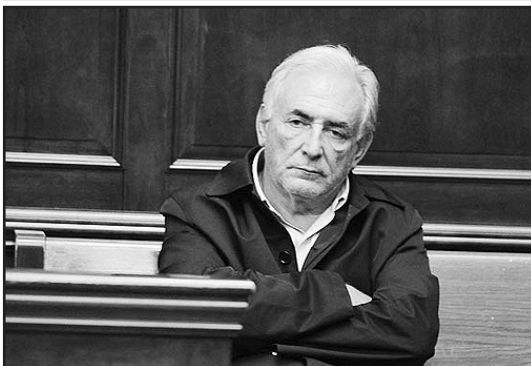
after a sharp rebound Wednesday that had been driven in part by a stabilization in US crude reserves after weeks of increases.

"We had good inventory data yesterday but today we're just giving back a bunch of these gains because we had a lot of weak economic data," said Matt Smith at Summit Energy.

Investors had disappointing numbers to digest Thursday that highlighted trouble spots amid a weak economic recovery.

Heightening market jitters was the International Energy Agency, which said oil prices remained high because of strong demand and geopolitical uncertainty -- a reference to unrest in the Middle East -- and called on producers to increase output.

IMF board starts search for Strauss-Kahn successor



Dominique Strauss-Kahn was indicted on charges of sexual assault

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The International Monetary Fund on Thursday launched a search for a successor to Dominique Strauss-Kahn, within hours after the IMF chief resigned to face sex charges in New York.

"The dean of the IMF executive board is initiating contacts with his colleagues today about the selection process for the managing director," IMF spokesman William Murray said.

The dean of the 24-member executive board is Abdel Shaker Shaalan, an Egyptian who represents the Arab states on the 24-member governing board.

The board's 24 members represent the 187 IMF

member nations, either as individuals for the largest economies and IMF shareholders like the United States, or for regional groupings of smaller economies.

The 24 directors have votes weighted by the size of their country's or region's subscription to the Fund.

Acting IMF managing director John Lipsky earlier announced the board would begin the search Thursday.

"This is the responsibility of the membership, not the staff, not the management," he added.

Strauss-Kahn quit his job in a statement released by the IMF board at midnight Wednesday, four days after he was arrested in New York on charges of sexually assaulting and attempting to rape a chambermaid at the luxury Sofitel hotel in New York.

Strauss-Kahn denied the charges. The leadership vacuum at the powerful institution, which makes loans to struggling economies, has prompted cries from the developing world for an end to the gentleman's agreement between the US and Europe that a European fills the post, and an American heads the World Bank.

Lobbying has already begun over the post, which has been occupied by an European since 1945. Many developing economies have called for a chief from elsewhere, with former Turkish finance minister Kemal Dervis the non-European favorite.

The swift move to launch a search came after the United States, the Fund's biggest stakeholder, called for an open, prompt selection and said it was neutral on a possible successor.

Dominique Strauss-Kahn was indicted on charges of sexual assault, prosecutors said Thursday, as he returned to court seeking to win bail from a gritty New York jail.



MUNICH, Germany : Former Deutsche Bank head Rolf-Ernst Breuer waits for the opening of a session of his trial at court in Munich, southern Germany, on May 19, 2011. German media tycoon Leo Kirch is suing Breuer as he thinks that comments Breuer made in the year 2002 on Kirch's credit worthiness provoked the bankruptcy of Kirch's media group.
AFP PHOTO

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RIO de JANEIRO, Brazil : - Inmates at the Nelson Hugria women's prison of Rio de Janeiro attend handicrafts lessons . The director of the prison, Gabriela Rosa Maia (out of frame), 34, who has been holding the post for two years and a half, introduced several plans to benefit more than 500 inmates, aiming to increase their self-esteem and promote social rehabilitation.
AFP PHOTO

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

WIN	SIB	BMW	S
WOO	ESAU	OV	AL
INVITING	OPRY		
RUT	LBS		
SCRAP	HIATUS		
ORES	COED	HAM	
DEN	MORSE	ATL	
SEE	AUNT	DUAL	
DWAYNE	MILNE		
ROC	GEE		
THAI	INUNDATE		
RIGS	LARD	SHY	
EPEE	GUS	HEE	

Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Malone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers,

airline pick-up and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for

homes come with cable TV, high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee.



parents or a few couples. Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All

Concierge services to arrange rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.



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Adriana and staff



Chef Jeffrey Elliot

Since opening in May of 2009, Ellioti's, located adjacent to the Costa Linda parking lot, has established itself as one of the most popular restaurants in the "low-rise" area. Owner Adrianna Sanchez has paid a lot of attention to detail and personally presides over her domain with a welcoming smile and a sincere concern for the satisfaction of her patrons.

The eatery is named for Chef Jeffrey Elliot, who was instrumental in establishing one of Aruba's original and most popular Italian restaurants of days past, Valentino's. He has brought his deft hand to this charming new location, offering a diversity of dishes

which has earned it high praise on a number of Internet review sites such as Tripadvisor and restaurantsaruba.com. "A hidden jewel" effuses one enthusiastic customer, "the best Shrimp Fra Diabolo I have ever had!" Another reviewer on Tripadvisor credits Ellioti's with "the best Fettucine Carbonara that I've ever had - and I've eaten at a lot of New York area Italian restaurants."

Ellioti's offers al fresco dining on their charming terrace or air-conditioned comfort in the dining room with the ambiance of a cozy Italian home. Fresh homemade pasta at extremely reasonable prices is their specialty, along with authentic Italian treatment of steak, seafood and fowl. Three nights a week the restaurant features live music from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.; every Tuesday enjoy piano accompaniment to your meal, on Saturdays Gerardo will enchant you with his gentle guitar.

If you enjoy a social evening with friends and good conversation with your meal, Ellioti's extremely tranquil setting is the perfect place to savor fine food and company. Open from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. six days a week, closed on Sunday.

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-Yolanda Cellucci, Boston, Mass

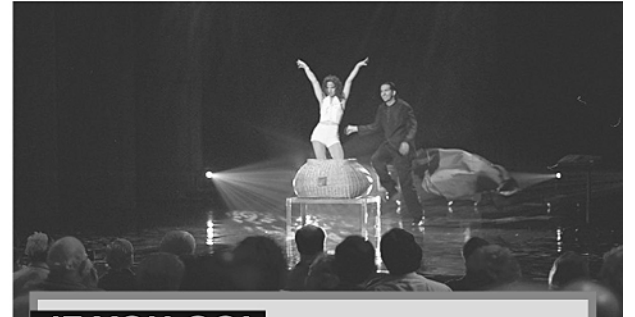
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Cannes bans von Trier after Nazi blunder



CANNES, France (AFP) - Cannes barred provocative Danish director Lars von Trier Thursday, amid a growing backlash over his remarks about Adolf Hitler, but his film remains in the race for the festival's top prize.

Blackballing one of Europe's most prominent filmmakers, festival organisers declared the 55-year-old auteur "persona non grata" -- telling him in effect to stay away from the world's biggest cinema jamboree.

In a statement, the festival said it "profoundly regrets" that von Trier had made comments

"unacceptable, intolerable, and contrary to the ideals of humanity and generosity" which it said underpinned the event.

"The board of directors firmly condemns these comments and declares Lars von Trier a persona non grata at the Festival de Cannes, with effect immediately," it said.

It was the first time since at least the 1960s that a director has been kicked out of Cannes, festival president Gilles Jacob told AFP.

But significantly, von Trier's apocalyptic drama "Melancholia" was kept in competition for the Palme d'Or, one of the most

coveted honours in cinema, to be awarded at the end of the festival on Sunday.

Twenty films from around the world are in the running for the prize.

The furore blew up on Wednesday at a press conference after the first screening of "Melancholia" when a reporter asked von Trier about his German heritage.

Von Trier -- notorious for his black humour and political incorrectness -- replied with a cheerful smile that he sympathised "a little bit" with Hitler.

"I really wanted to be a Jew and then I found out that I was really a Nazi," he said, referring to his mother's deathbed revelation that his biological father was actually a German.

"I understand Hitler. I think he did some wrong things, yes absolutely, but I can see him sitting in his bunker in the end."

Later in the day, as his words raced around the world, von Trier issued a statement of apology, adding: "I am not anti-Semitic or racially prejudiced in any way, nor am I a Nazi."

World to end on Saturday, say New York preachers



NEW YORK (AFP) - It's raining in New York, and everyone tries to get out of the rain. Not Manny. Unflappable, he stands on a corner with his umbrella, warning people that on Saturday, May 21, the world will end.

All over New York, preachers armed with T-shirts, brochures, books and posters are preaching the end of the world. Using a complex numerical calculation from the Bible, there are even advertisements on the New York city subway warning of the "great earthquake" that accompanies the advent of Judgement Day.

"According to the Bible, in the Book of Revelations there will be a worldwide earthquake," Manny said. "We're not sure if it will happen at the same time everywhere, because times are different. But it is supposed to happen simultaneously around the world," the 56-year old from the Dominican Republic told AFP.

The date of May 21, 2011 may seem random, but it is based on a numerical analysis by Harold Camping, the president of Family Radio, a religious broadcaster based in California.

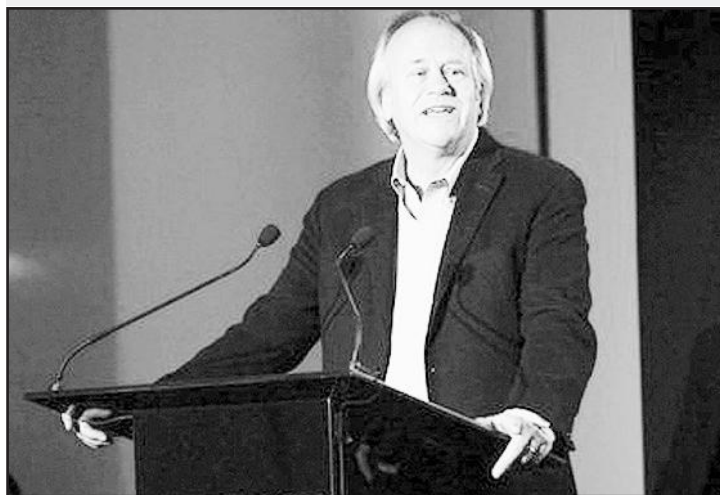
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Ebersol resigns as NBC Sports boss



Dick Ebersol, pictured here in 2008

NEW YORK (AFP) – Dick Ebersol resigned Thursday as chairman of the NBC Sports Group, leaving the perennial US television home of the Olympics only three weeks before TV bids are considered for the 2014 and 2016 Games.

Ebersol told the New York Times he could not reach agreement on terms of a new contract just months after NBC was bought by US cable giant Comcast, ending a TV career of more than 40 years, the past 22 years as boss of NBC sports.

NBC has purchased the US broadcast rights to the Summer Olympics since 1988 in Seoul and each Winter Olympics since 2002 in Salt

Lake City.

The timing of Ebersol's departure raises questions about whether or not a Comcast-owned NBC will continue to out-bid rivals for US Olympic TV rights.

ESPN-ABC and Fox are expected to bid against NBC for a rights package that commanded \$2.2 million when Ebersol made the winning bid eight years ago for rights to the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics and 2012 London Summer Olympics.

NBC lost a reported \$223 million on Vancouver coverage only months after Comcast announced plans to purchase NBC from General Electric.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) will host presentations and secret bidding for rights to the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics and 2016 Rio de Janeiro Summer Olympics next month, with bidding also available on a four-event package including the 2018 and 2020 Olympics at sites yet to be determined.

IOC officials have said they expected at least as much income as the prior package for the new one.

Mark Lazarus, who was president of the NBC Sports Cable Group, was appointed to replace Ebersol, who together with Lorne Michaels developed "Saturday Night Live" into an iconic late-night comedy show that has run since 1975.

"It has been a sincere privilege to tell so many remarkable stories that have inspired me throughout my entire career," Ebersol said.

"Some of my favorite memories come from reading letters and talking to viewers who also have been moved by such powerful stories."

Ebersol, 63, began his career in 1967 when he took a hiatus from studies at Yale University to serve as a researcher for ABC television's Olympic coverage.

Djokovic is French Open favourite, says Nadal



Last week, Nadal won his third consecutive Monte Carlo Masters Title

PARIS, France (AFP) – Defending French Open champion Rafael Nadal heaped the pressure onto Novak Djokovic's shoulders on Thursday by insisting that the undefeated Serb is the favourite to win Roland Garros.

World number two Djokovic has won all 37 matches he has played in 2011 and has defeated Nadal in the season's four Masters finals, including on clay in Madrid and Rome.

"I think he is the great favourite. He hasn't lost a match since the start of the year and he's playing in an incredible way," said five-time French Open champion and world number one Nadal on a visit to the Champs Elysees.

"I do not fear Djokovic but you have to applaud his success since the beginning of the

year. This will be very difficult to repeat. I admire what he has done."

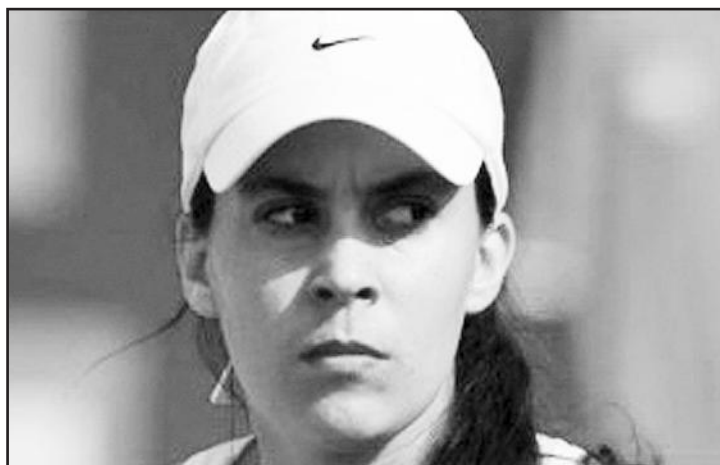
Nadal also warned that his great rival Roger Federer, the 2009 champion and 16-time major winner, should not be ruled out as a contender when Roland Garros gets underway on Sunday.

"The Grand Slams are his speciality," said the Spaniard, who is one title away from equalling Bjorn Borg's record of six wins in Paris.

Nadal added: "I am always motivated and impatient to get my first match started."

"There has been a lot of talk about the Borg record, but I am only thinking about winning the tournament. Nadal practised for the first time on Thursday at the Suzanne Lenglen Court at Roland Garros.

Bartoli in first clay final in four years



Marion Bartoli: Never gave up hope

STRASBOURG, France (AFP) – French top seed Marion Bartoli won through to her first red clay semi-final in four years on Thurs-

day when she beat Czech player Lucie Hradecka 6-2, 6-3 in the Strasbourg event.


Standing between the top seed and her first clay final

since Prague in 2007 is Spanish seventh seed Anabel Medina Garrigues, a three-time champion here, who put out Croatia's Mirjana Lucic 6-4, 6-4.

Qualifier Lucic, 29, was playing her first WTA quarter-final since she went all the way to the semi-finals at Wimbledon in 1999.

Today's other semi-final pits German second seed Andrea Petkovic against Daniela Hantuchova, the Slovak sixth seed.

Petkovic defeated Russian fifth seed Maria Kirilenko 6-4, 6-3 while Hantuchova knocked out fourth seeded Russian Nadia Petrova 6-4, 6-2.



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East	W	L	Pct	GB
TAMPA	25	18	.581	--
NY YANKEES	22	19	.537	2.0
BOSTON	22	20	.524	2.5
TORONTO	21	21	.500	3.5
BALTIMORE	19	22	.463	5.0

Central

CLEVELAND	26	14	.650	--
DETROIT	22	20	.524	5.0
KANSAS CITY	20	22	.476	7.0
CHICAGO	19	25	.432	9.0
MINNESOTA	14	27	.341	12.5

West

TEXAS	23	20	.535	--
OAKLAND	22	21	.512	1.0
LA ANGELES	22	22	.500	1.5
SEATTLE	18	24	.429	4.5

National League

East	W	L	Pct	GB
PHILADELPHIA	26	16	.619	--
FLORIDA	24	17	.585	1.5
ATLANTA	25	20	.556	2.5
NY METS	20	22	.476	6.0
WASHINGTON	20	22	.476	6.0

Central

CINCINNATI	25	18	.581	--
ST. LOUIS	25	19	.568	0.5
MILWAUKEE	21	22	.488	4.0
PITTSBURG	19	23	.452	5.5
CHICAGO	18	23	.439	6.0
HOUSTON	15	28	.349	10

West

SAN FRANCISCO	23	19	.548	--
COLORADO	22	19	.537	0.5
LA DODGERS	20	24	.455	4.0
ARIZONA	19	23	.452	4.0
SAN DIEGO	18	25	.419	5.5

Canucks rout Sharks to take 2-0 series lead

VANCOUVER, Canada (AFP) — Daniel Sedin, Chris Higgins and Mason Raymond scored power play goals as the Vancouver Canucks routed the San Jose Sharks 7-3 to seize a 2-0 lead in their NHL semi-finals series.

"This was our best game in a while," on Wednesday said goaltender Roberto Luongo, who finished with 28 saves.

"Our discipline was huge tonight. When they got frustrated and retaliated we just kept taking the punches in the face and let them have the penalties."

Vancouver defenceman Aaron Rome scored his first NHL playoff goal and his teammate Kevin Bieksa finished with a "Gordie Howe hat-trick" (goal, assist and a fight).

Bieksa got the go-ahead goal on a breakaway with 7:55 remaining in the second

period. The Canucks went four-of-six on the power play as Sedin scored twice on the power play.

Game three of the best-of-seven Western Conference final series is today at San Jose.

The Sharks lost their composure in the third period, especially forward Ben Eager.

Canadian Eager ran Daniel Sedin, of Sweden, into the boards from behind for a penalty. He later scored a goal but took a penalty on the play after he knocked over Luongo and then decided to hang around in the crease, jawing at the Vancouver goalie like Cassius Clay taunting a prone Sonny Liston.

Eager, who won a Stanley Cup with Chicago last season, took another penalty for tripping in the third and the Canucks scored with the man advantage to make it 4-2.

De Silvestro hospitalized after fiery Indy crash

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana (AFP) — Swiss racer Simona De Silvestro was hospitalized on Thursday after suffering burns to both hands in a fiery crash during a practice session for the 100th anniversary Indianapolis 500.

De Silvestro, who started 22nd and finished 14 last year in her Indy 500 debut, lost control between the third and fourth turns and the car slammed into the outer wall of the famed 2 1/2-mile (4km) Indianapolis Motor Speedway oval.

The car soared into the air, flipped several times and struck a safety fence before landing, upside down and burning, in the fourth turn. Wreckage and parts of the track were ablaze and safety crew members helped lead De Silvestro away.

De Silvestro, 22, had major burns on her right hand and minor ones on her left hand. She was awake and alert when transferred from the trackside medical center to Methodist Hospital.

The crash halted practice for 30 minutes as racers, frustrated by days of rain that wiped out 60 percent of prior Indy training time, worked to prepare for Saturday's pole qualifying and Sunday's final time trials to fill the 33-car field for the May 29 race.

De Silvestro, ranked only 39th on the speed chart this month, reached a top speed of 222.192 mph in six laps before the crash. She ranks 11th in the IndyCar season driver's standings with her best showing a fourth-place run in the season opener at St. Petersburg, Florida.

James powers Heat past Bulls in game two

CHICAGO (AFP) — The Miami Heat rebounded from a blowout loss in game one to beat the Chicago Bulls 85-75 and level their NBA semi-final series at one game apiece.

"Whatever it takes," said Heat star LeBron James, who on Wednesday finished with 29 points. "This is the conference finals and these are two great defensive teams. But you have to be patient... keep working the offence."

Dwyane Wade added 24 points for the Heat who managed to steal home-court advantage from the Bulls as the series now switches to Miami.

James, who has been fighting a cold this week, said he was relieved to get the win but was also relishing the chance to go home and rest up.

"Do you hear my voice?" he asked. "I put it all on line tonight. I am glad I got a few days to get back down to the great weather we got in Miami and get over it (cold)."

The Heat recovered down the stretch Wednesday to pull even after surrendering an 11-point lead earlier in the contest.

James drained a three pointer in the fourth to put the Heat in front for good, at 76-73. He scored nine points in

the final five minutes.

James also grabbed 10 rebounds as Miami out-rebounded Chicago 45-41.

"The series has just started," James said. "It's 1-1. We're excited that we were able to come here and get a win. But it's just started."

James also grabbed 10 rebounds while Wade finished with nine rebounds for the Heat, who host Sunday's game three. Chris Bosh scored 10 points.

Udonis Haslem came off the bench to score 13 points for Miami who defeated the Bulls for the first time this season.

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Rain tests nerves ahead of Indy pole fight



INDIANAPOLIS (AFP) - Drivers faced a tense qualifying weekend for the 100th anniversary edition of the Indianapolis 500 after rain washed out 60 percent of the first five practice days at the famed oval track.

Showers reduced the amount of time newcomers had to learn the secrets for reaching top speed at the famed 2 1/2-mile (4km) Indianapolis Motor Speedway while veterans worked to refine their cars for all sorts of possible weather.

Forecasters predict a 40 percent chance of thunderstorms for Saturday's scheduled pole position fight and a 50 percent chance of thunderstorms for Sunday's planned final qualifying to fill the 33-car field for the May 29 race.

"The weather is always tricky here so you have to plan ahead. It can get a little frustrating at times," said defending champion Dario Franchitti of Scotland, who reached 224.4 mph on Monday before two washed-out practice days.

Franchitti, who turned 38 on Thursday, won the Indy 500 in 2007 before making an ill-fated switch to US stock

cars the following season. He returned to IndyCar in 2009 and captured the 500 and his third season title last year.

"There's no question it's a great feeling to run fast here again," said Franchitti. "We certainly can't complain about where we are."

Australian Will Power is a perfect 4-for-4 in IndyCar pole qualifying this season and leads the season points chase with two victories and 168 points, 14 more than second-place Franchitti. Spain's Oriol Servia is third on 110.

Power's pole triumphs have all come on road layouts but he knows the Indy 500 pole test, a four-lap average, is unlike anything else in the sport.

"For me, it would be a really big deal. It's something that I would love to do," Power said.

"I know what I need to do. Conditions are changing every year but the car's exactly the same. I'm definitely keen to giving it everything I can to get the pole, no question."

Aussie Ryan Briscoe, Power's Penske Racing teammate, was confident he could challenge for the inside front row spot as well.

"We've just got to make sure we put ourselves in the right position to be able to go for it on Saturday," Briscoe said.

British racer Pippa Mann, trying to reach her first Indy 500, was set for a flurry of activity to try and prepare for her qualifying bid due to the rain.

"It's going to make the next few days pretty insane, not just for us but for everyone," she said. "The track is going to be extremely busy, and it's going to be fairly intense."

Canada's Alex Tagliani led the early week practice speeds but that only added to his worries as conditions changed.

"Weather is a concern," Tagliani said. "If we had been struggling from the get-go and the car was hard to drive with no speed we would be praying for sun. At the same time we know what we have. We know what the car is capable of doing."

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Animal Kingdom is Preakness favourite



BALTIMORE, Maryland (AFP) - Kentucky Derby champion Animal Kingdom is the 2-1 favourite for Saturday's 136th Preakness Stakes at Pimlico Race Course.

The three-year-old colt will battle 13 others over the

1 3/16-mile Preakness, the second of three races that make up the horse racing's Triple Crown.

The third and final leg of the Triple Crown is the \$1 million Belmont Stakes on June 11. Not since Affirmed

in 1978 has there been a colt that has swept all three races.

Animal Kingdom is owned by Team Valor International.

Two weeks ago at Churchill Downs, Animal Kingdom rallied to record a 2 3/4-length victory.

Animal Kingdom will be ridden by jockey John Velazquez and drew the No. 11 post. The horse is trained by Graham Motion.

Dialed In is at 9-2 and will start from the No. 10 post on Saturday. Dialed In, who was favoured to win the Kentucky Derby, finished eighth.

Mucho Macho Man is the 6-1 third choice and drew the No. 9 post on Wednesday.

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